

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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A6  
A Japanese letter input device is disclosed.  
comprises A direction designation unit 10 includes a  
stick or pointer 11 movable from center position C0 to  
5 any one of 12 circumferentially spaced-apart direction 28  
designation positions C1 to C12. Direction  
designation unit is capable of outputting position data  
upon detection of a position reached by the pointer 11.  
A data processing unit 20 selects a particular letter  
10 and outputs a code thereof according to a change in the 44  
output of the direction designation unit. A memory 21  
stores process programs to be executed by the data  
processing unit. A display unit 30 displays letters  
outputted by the data processing unit and also other  
15 displays concerning the operations of the device. The 43  
data processing unit 20 determines a consonant when the  
pointer 11 is moved from the center position C0 to one  
of the direction designation positions C1 to C12,  
selects a vowel when the pointer is then  
20 circumferentially moved, and determines and inputs a 43  
letter when the pointer is then returned to the center  
position C0. A determining key 5 may be provided for  
determining a consonant and a vowel. 26